

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

DATE: Monday, March 27, 2006

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA

PRESENT: Selectmen Adams, Herl, Cloutier, Gagnon, and Gaucher; Town Administrator Terenzini; Administrative Assistant Simpson.

At 7:02 p.m. Chairman Adams called the meeting to order. Motion by Mr. Gagnon to approve the minutes of meeting of March 13, 2006, and workshop and executive session of March 20, 2006; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

**CITIZENS' INPUT:** Paul McNeil of 93 Chestnut Street spoke against replacing the custodial position with an outside contractor, saying he felt the idea that cheaper is better can be a dangerous one. He spoke of the benefits of having a local person versus having an anonymous person in the job, and said the government exists to serve the people and to be an employer. He asked what the protocol would be for a custodial need that happens outside of a contractor's scheduled hours, and also mentioned crosswalks in town should be painted.

Joseph DeCoff I of 10 Charron Street said he had a discussion at the Selectmen's last workshop, that he recently had important information concerning collusion with the union and Town of Spencer, and that he would take the town to the labor board.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The Board noted a letter from Leicester/Spencer American Youth Football regarding a jamboree on August 26. Mr. Herl said the group would need approval from the School Committee to use school lands, and Mr. Terenzini noted the group would need certain permits from the town and would need to contact the Agricultural Association for use of the fairgrounds for parking. Motion by Mr. Herl that the Town Administrator write a letter to Leicester/Spencer American Youth Football alerting them who to contact and noting the Board would be more than willing to help, noting that if the event happens, the Board would declare the day as American Youth Football Day and would give all their support; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Cloutier noted a letter from the Office of Development and Inspectional Services regarding difficulties the Building Inspector was facing with people pulling roof permits. Mr. Cloutier wanted the public to know there is an equity issue involved in permits, and that the Building Inspector is there for the public's protection. Motion by Mr. Cloutier to support the efforts of ODIS in carrying out inspections and roofing and other permits, and to stand behind the Building Inspector if he is challenged; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Terenzini reported he had heard from two representatives of National Grid regarding the town's letter about slow response time to emergencies.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Introduction of New Staff and Appointees:** Fire Chief Parsons introduced Sindee DiBenedetto and Brian Morrison, new appointees to SEMA.

**b. Public Hearing Re: Underground Electric Conduit Petition (Sullivan Street):** Chairman Adams noted the plan submitted had an error in regards to an abutter, and Lawrence Schuyler of National Grid

said he had contacted the contractor involved for a revised map and had not heard back yet. It was noted the error was not where excavation would take place, and the correct abutter had been notified. Motion by Mr. Herl to accept proposal subject to amended plan; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

**c. Public Hearing Re: Renaming of West Main Street/Dewey Street:** Chairman Adams noted the public hearing had been advertised in the *New Leader* on March 15 and notice sent to property owners. Assessors Dick Foisey and Donald Clough were present. Rich Suitum, president of Exsel Advertising of 130 West Main Street, thanked the Board for bringing up this issue, saying his clients often got lost looking for his business. Mr. Terenzini noted the process would take a span of nine months or longer, and Mr. Cloutier explained which sections of which streets would be renamed or renumbered. Joe Diveglia of FlexCon asked whether the company would retain the address of 1 FlexCon Industrial Park, and the board confirmed that address would not change. Brian Gobi of 98 Mechanic Street said he was interested but not overly concerned with the change, but suggested using the name Old Main Street, and added that there was also an option of doing nothing, as while it was an inconvenience to some it was not a public safety issue. Mr. Foisey said the renumbering would be very difficult and there was discussion about which parts of roads would need to be renumbered. Chairman Adams said it would likely take three to four months to work out the renumbering, six months to alert citizens, and one year overall. Motion by Mr. Gagnon to authorize the Town Administrator to begin the process and report back within two months; seconded by Mr. Herl. Motion passed, 5-0.

**d. Public Hearing and Action Re: CDBG (Karen Cullen):** ODIS Director Karen Cullen gave a presentation on the FY '06 CDBG application and the downtown area. She clarified for Paul McNeil of 93 Chestnut Street that the grant was just for planning, the likelihood of receiving grants was strong, and that the state changes the amount of grants given every year. There was discussion of the importance of citizen involvement in revitalizing the downtown area. Motion by Mr. Herl to 1. Approve the filing of an application for \$110,136 for a Community Development Block Grant (Category Community Development Fund I) with the Department of Housing and Community Development; 2. Authorize the Town Administrator to sign said application on behalf of the Town of Spencer; 3. Accept any funds that may be forthcoming; 4. And take any and all actions necessary to implement said grant; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed 5-0.

**e. Action Re: PWED Applications (Mechanic & Cherry Streets):** Ms. Cullen and Bayside Engineering Consultant Steve Tyler explained the improvements described in the PWED applications. There was discussion about timelines, infrastructure repairs, why Cherry Street was chosen, and burying electric wires. Motion by Mr. Herl to apply for funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) through its Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grant program for the rehabilitation of portions of Mechanic Street and Cherry Street and the Mechanic Street parking lot located in downtown Spencer, Massachusetts; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

**f. Action Re: Transportation Project Need Forms (Main Street and Seven Mile River Bridge):** Ms. Cullen and Mr. Tyler spoke about the PNFs. It was clarified that the Seven Mile River Bridge was the one on Route 31 just before Hastings Road, not the one near the cemetery, but Mr. Tyler said he would look into the second bridge, which can be taken into consideration for next year. Motion by Mr. Herl to 1. Approve the filing of a Project Need Form (PNF) for the reconstruction of Main Street (Route 9/31) from Maple Street to Elm Street, for inclusion on the TIP; 2. Approve the filing of a Project Need Form (PNF) for the reconstruction of Bridge No. S-23-012, Spencer Road (Route 31) over the Seven Mile River, for inclusion on the TIP; 3. Authorize the Town Administrator to sign said applications on behalf of the Town of Spencer; 4. Accept any funds that may be forthcoming; 5. And take any and all actions necessary to implement said grants; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed, 5-0.

**g. Action Re: Acquisition of Property from Reginald and Sandra Girouard (former Paradis Café):** Mr. Terenzini noted a change in the Order of Taking from “northwesterly” to “northeasterly” in the second paragraph that started with “Beginning.” He said he was scheduled to meet with the Girouards the next day and that there was one last title issue involving a discharge of mortgage, but that it would not affect the order of taking. Motion by Mr. Herl to adopt the Order of Taking as published with change as noted; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 4-1 (Ms. Gaucher voted no).

**h. Action Re: Vote for Meritorious Public Service Award:** The Board submitted votes to Chairman Adams. He noted the outcome would be announced at the Annual Town Meeting.

**i. Action Re: Adoption of Spencer Fire Department Fee Schedule:** Chief Parsons was present, and there was a discussion about non-voice-activated combination alarms that do not meet code. Chief Parsons noted the implementation of carbon monoxide detectors in residence homes takes effect March 31, with an extension to six-family homes. Motion by Mr. Herl to accept fee schedule as proposed and talked about at last workshop; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

**j. Action Re: Setting Date for Question Time:** Motion by Mr. Herl to hold Question Time on April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Motion passed, 5-0.

**k. Action Re: Amendment of Snow and Ice Deficit Approvals:** U&F Superintendent Warren Ramsey was present. Mr. Terenzini noted this request was to increase the deficit by \$7,500 and to amend the reallocations as \$25,000 to personnel services and \$82,500 to supplies. Motion by Mr. Herl to approve and amend snow and ice as presented; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed, 5-0.

**BOARD LIAISON REPORTS:** None.

**CITIZENS' INPUT:** None.

**BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:** Mr. Cloutier requested to discuss the cable attorney issue at the next workshop. Chairman Adams made note of recent accomplishments and upcoming events.

At 8:50 p.m. motion by Mr. Herl that the Board convene in executive session to consider union negotiations and real estate negotiations and that the Board reconvene in public session solely for purposes of adjournment; seconded by Mr. Cloutier. Roll call vote: Gaucher—yes, Gagnon—yes, Cloutier—yes, Adams—yes, Herl—yes.

The executive session concluded at 9:33 p.m. Motion by Mr. Herl to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Gagnon. Motion passed, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Simpson, Administrative Assistant

_____ Chairman	_____ Member
_____ Vice Chairman	_____ Member
_____ Clerk	Board of Selectmen